SUBJECTS.

forests. It was at a great loss and with trouble that they got bamboos from Nagercoil and other depots for which they had to pay 175 fs. for 100 bamboos and Rs. 3 cart hire. On the other hand, to remove them from the forests, they had to incur only Rs. 4 for seigniorage, Rs. 2 charges for cutting and Rs. 2 cart hire for 100 bamboos.

(5) Another hardship was in the matter of obtaining timber. As matters now stood, timber is not sold to suit the convenience of the people. They are auctioned only in big lots. Merchants purchased them in auction and carried them away. People had to buy them from the merchants at a very high rate.

The difficulties experienced in obtaining passes for the removal of green manure and firewood from the forests

Mr. K. A. Aiyamperumal Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) represented that the taluk was surrounded by forests on all sides, that on account of the extension of Reserved Forests as far as the limits of registered holdings, people were put to great difficulties in the matter of (1) grazing their cattle and (2) getting firewood and manure leaves. The levying of license fees for grazing cattle was a source of great trouble to the adjoining cultivators, who stabled their cattle in sheds near the forest. They had no *poramboke* lands to graze their cattle on and there was no pathway through which the cattle might be taken to be grazed elsewhere. The levy of license fees for grazing their sheep in the forests, in common with those of foreigners, should be discontinued, as they would not destroy the forest produce. As regards the removal of firewood, he said that the people were put to great difficulty in not being allowed to gather withered twigs and the branches of reserved and unreserved trees and that they must be allowed to remove them. He further said that, in the matter of obtaining manure leaves from the forests, people were forbidden to gather the leaves of many of the trees, which were particularly useful for agriculture, and he prayed that, if manure leaves could not be had from the said trees, the Government should order the planting in the forests, of the ordinary manure trees, and the people should be permitted to remove the leaves for manuring purposes.

Dewan's reply.—The Conservator of Forests will be asked to report regarding the allegations made by the two Members in regard to the working of the Forest Rules in the Southern Division.

17. The concession granted to the Thovala ryots for the removal of green manure from Velimala, may be extended to the Agastiswaram taluk

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk). When the Member rose up to make his representation, the Dewan told him that the concession was granted to the Thovala taluk as an experiment for two years and asked him whether it was not enough to extend the privilege to other places after seeing its working for two years in that taluk. The Member consented to the same.

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